

Home Department.



The "Stronger" Sex.

For years men have boasted that they are the representatives of the "stronger sex," and for years women have been designated as the representatives of the weaker sex.

The gentler sex, perhaps, but not the weaker sex by any means. It is true that in the point of physical strength the average man surpasses the average woman. But it is not true that in emergencies, when real strength of character is essential, when conditions require a moral force that provides all other essential forms of strength, even for the moment of the physical kind, that man is the superior of woman.

We have seen this question tested in the homes of the country, at the bedside of sick children, where the father's boasted superior physical strength often fails in comparison with the strength and endurance of the devoted mother. We have seen it at the open grave of some loved one, where frequently the man gives way to emotion, while the woman, often weak and frail, rises to the occasion.

Have you ever noticed at a country fair on a hot and dusty day, some little mother patiently trudging along with an infant in one arm, another child holding her hand, and yet another tugging at her skirts? Have you noticed how bravely and patiently she carries the burden? Have you ever thought how long even a strong man could endure such an inconvenience? Or have you ever been privileged to actually see the manner in which a strong man did attempt to endure such an inconvenience?

Have you ever noticed that when misfortune and disaster comes upon a home, the strength of the mother and the wife generally compares more than favorably with the strength of the father and the husband.

Have you ever noticed that however frail and delicate a woman may be, when the occasion requires real strength, the strength that prompts a person to "suffer and be strong" and to stand erect in the pitiless shadows of misfortune, that the woman is generally equal to the occasion?

In this connection it may be observed that very general anxiety was manifested for Mrs. McKinley at the time of the attack upon the president. She had so long been an invalid, was so frail and delicate that the news was kept from her as long as it was possible to do so, and when the news was finally broken to her everyone expected that she would suffer a shock from which it would be very difficult for her to recover. What was the result? The news was broken as gently and tenderly as possible. This wife was brought face to face with the terrible truth. She did not collapse, she did not faint. But the woman within her asserted itself, and she stood up strong under her great load exactly as thousands and thousands of other women have stood up before her day under loads to them equally heavy and exactly as thousands and thousands of women will yet stand up in the presence of mighty griefs.

Men may flatter themselves that through some mysterious agency they have inherited the title, "Lords of Creation." But the women generally prove their strength in withstanding pain or enduring affliction according to the requirements of the situation.

Household Hints.

Cheap little whisk brooms are very useful about the kitchen. One should always be kept for no other use than sprinkling clothes; others for cleaning. There is nothing better than the whisk broom to clean a horseradish grater. The useful chain discloth is now much improved from its first estate, being mounted upon a firm handle, which enables it to be used with greater ease. As

a pot scraper, however, nothing else equals the humble clam shell.

A useful undergarment at all seasons, but especially in early fall, when sudden chilly days come, is a woven underwaist which comes in cotton, thread or wool. It has a high neck and long sleeves, fits like a glove, has but little bulk, and is a very useful extra garment. Many women wear the woven underwaist in place of an ordinary muslin corset cover, during the winter.

Fish and Macaroni Scallop.—Put into a buttered baking dish, in layers, equal parts of cold cooked fish and cold boiled macaroni cut fine. For one pint of the mixture make one cup of tomato sauce. Fry one teaspoon of minced onion in one tablespoon butter; add one even tablespoon flour and one cup of stewed tomato. Salt and pepper to taste. Strain it over the fish. Cover with three-fourths cup of cracker crumbs moistened in melted butter. Bake until the crumbs are brown.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Birds of a Feather.

Four little birds in a nest too small,
Only one mamma to care for them all;
'Twas twitter and chirp the livelong day,
No wonder mammas soon grow gray.

Papa bird was a dashing fellow,
Coat of black with a flash of yellow;
Never a bird of early spring
Could rival him when he chose to sing.

He helped the mamma bird build the nest
Where the winds could rock it the very best,
And while she sat on her eggs all day,
He would cheer her up with a roundelay.

But when from each egg in the swinging bed,
A little birdie popped its head,
He said to his wife: "I've done my share
Of household duties. They are now your care."

Then off he went to a concert fine,
In the apple-tree and bright sunshine;
Without a thought of the stupid way,
His poor little wife must pass her day.

At last, the mamma bird fell ill,
And the papa was forced against his will
To take her place with the birdies small,
Ready to answer their chirp and call.

Sorry day for the wretched fellow,
Dressed so gay; with a scarf of yellow;
Shut in the house from morn till night,
Was ever a bird in such a plight?

Tie on a hood or fasten a shoe,
Or mend a dollie good as new,
Or tell a story over again,
Or kiss the fingers that had a pain.

Or sew a button on baby's shoe,
Or settle disputes of which and who;
These were the parts of the calls he had
In that single day, to drive him mad.

At eve'n, he said, "Another day
Would turn my goldenous plumage gray,
Or else in a fit of grim despair
I'd fling these children in the air."

Have I mixed up birds with human folks,
And nest with homes in lofty oaks?
This story is true, and I overheard
Those very words of the papa bird.

But who he was and where he did dwell,
I'll never, no never, no never tell;
The truth for once is truth for aye,
And this is the reason mammas grow gray.

—Exchange.

Lemon Frappe.

Four lemons, one pint of sugar, one pint each of cold and boiling water. Peel three of the lemons very thin, being careful not to use any of the white rind. Cover the paring with the boiling water and let stand fifteen minutes, closely

covered. Squeeze the juice from the lemons, add the cold water and the water from the lemon parings, then add the sugar, strain and put into the freezer, and when frozen to a mush, serve, or if it is to stand awhile before serving, scrape the mixture from the sides and bottom of the can.

A Thoughtful Mother Says.

That if you want your children to be courteous, you must treat them with respect.

That they will invariably copy your manners, so you must take care that they are the best.

That you should be as careful of their feelings as you wish them to be of the feelings of others.

That when it is necessary to administer reproof it should be given in private.

That most children are sensitive on this point; it injures their self-respect and they feel it acutely, though they are not able to express it in words.

That to tell a child in public that it has been rude or lacking in good breeding is as unwarrantable as it would be to tell a guest so.

That it is no excuse to argue that you are doing it for the purpose of making the child better and more thoughtful.

That this can be accomplished much better if you take the child aside at the first convenient opportunity and gently but firmly point out what the error was, and what should be done on the next occasion.

That it is possible to callous a child's conscience by too rigid discipline, and this is a mistake made by too many mothers.—Farmers' Advocate.

For the Sewing Mother.

The change of seasons is a trying time to mothers with several growing children, but if they have been wise enough to make provision for altering the garments the work is greatly lessened. There are so many ways of economizing in children's clothing that they may be comfortably and nicely dressed and yet not have anything really new. Many kinds of woolen goods wash well and it is much better to use old material of good quality than to buy new cheap goods. Some children take great pride in their mother's ability to make pretty new dresses from old ones, and never hesitate to say that this dress is made from sister's old tan cloth, or from mother's old gray serge, and well they may, for this ability stands in the place of money in a household of limited means. When the mother has learned the art of successful making over, it means pretty clothes, becoming hats and stylish jackets, for when these articles are needed they are always forthcoming. There is always some garment carefully put away that can be fashioned into the needed article. But unless the new clothes are made up prettily the children are not so proud of them, and it is just as easy to make a dress neat and stylish as to make it plain and ill-fitting. The most necessary requirement is for them to be of a becoming color and when garments of all kinds can be dyed suitable colors they can have pretty and becoming clothes, no matter if they are made from old material. A "made over" that is as handsome as any new dress was originally a drab colored woolen dress skirt. After the dress was taken apart it was cleaned and dyed a lovely shade of dark red. It was made with a dainty blouse waist with plaid trimmings and it is both becoming and stylish. The faded gray or tan suits of men dye beautiful shades of red by dipping in diamond dye for wool, and as this color promises to be worn for young girls the coming season, a small cape or eton jacket can be made for a very small outlay of money. It is always well to have new linings for made over garments and they should be finished as neatly as if they were made of new material. Many woolen fabrics may be made up with the wrong side out, and by using the best parts of the cloth very serviceable garments for the small boy or the little girl can be made at almost no expense and one may exercise her own taste and ingenuity in planning them.—A. M. H., in Farmers' Advocate.